

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study

Associated Historic Property Survey Methodology

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Origin of the List of Associated Historic Properties.....	2
Organization of the Study and Survey Process.....	4
Overview of the Survey Process.....	4
 Researching Associated Historic Properties.....	 6
Goals of Archival Research.....	6
General Archival Research Procedures.....	6
Primary Source Research.....	8
Secondary Source Research.....	13
Researching Other Property Types.....	13
Historic Districts.....	13
Transitory Fortifications and Encampments.....	14
Transportation Routes and Resources.....	15
Traditional Cultural Properties.....	16
Ships and Shipwrecks.....	16
Compiling the Archival Research.....	17
Research Checklist.....	19
 Conducting the Associated Historic Properties Field Survey.....	 20
Goals of the Field Survey.....	20
General Field Survey Procedures.....	21
Surveying Other Property Types.....	29
Historic District Surveys.....	30
Landscape Survey.....	31
Archaeological Survey.....	32
Underwater Survey and Naval Resources.....	33
 Documenting the Associated Historic Properties.....	 35
Archival Research Portion of the Project.....	35
Fieldwork Portion of the Project.....	36
Complete Associated Historic Property Deliverable Checklist.....	38
 Associated Historic Property Survey Reference Materials.....	 39
 Appendix	
Sample: title trace reference form	
Sample: ABPP sources form	
Sample: Associated Historic Property field survey form	
Sample: ABPP photo log form	

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Associated Historic Property Survey Methodology

Similar to the Battlefield Survey Manual being used for the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study, this Associated Historic Property Survey Methodology statement is designed to aide individual surveyors as they work to identify, document and assess these important resources. By creating a standard methodology across the entire survey area of the preservation study, the NPS study team can provide State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), local planners, scholars, and others with consistent and complete data for all associated historic properties investigated as part of this project. In addition, employing a standard methodology will allow the NPS study team, and the project advisory committee, to compare sites across the entire region of interest.

Although the associated historic properties remain very different resource types from the battlefields themselves, much of the same basic survey practice can be utilized for looking at these related sites. The importance of surveying these sites, recognizing their significance, and documenting these resources for the future is clear. For the most part, the associated historic property survey methodology will focus on examining historic structures and their related landscapes, researching their history and associations with the two wars, as well as documenting their current conditions and potential threats. Additional property types do exist within the overall group of associated historic properties however, and the methodology can be adapted to reflect these alternatives in some cases. Despite this fact, all survey and documentation methods will follow a similar process.

Introduction

The main focus of the historic preservation study will be the battlefields themselves, however the associated historic properties maintain a significant role within the study, and as such should be considered an integral part of the survey process. These associated properties contribute to the military actions, in addition to forming the historic context for the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 periods being examined with this study. Because of the interaction and inter-relationship between the associated properties and the battlefields, the associated property survey will be conducted in coordination with the battlefield study. Maintaining a consistent and complementary survey process therefore becomes extremely important.

Origin of the list of associated historic properties

The Associated Historic Properties List consists of historic places, other than battle sites, that have a tangible connection to the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. It includes properties dealing with commerce, agriculture, social history, and government; military sites that were not scenes of direct engagements (such as headquarters, encampments, supply centers, etc); and other significant places associated with the two wars.

Using a list of battles, constructed in March 2000, as a starting point, the NPS study team defined a geographic extent of battles to help refine the search parameters for associated historic properties. The study team surmised that the majority of associated resources would logically fall

within approximately the same geographic area as the major military campaigns due to general settlement patterns, trade networks, and the locations of governmental installations. Many of the associated historic properties within these areas became military objectives and targets, such as supply depots, manufacturing sites, or other political and strategic locations, but were not necessarily battle locations.

The March 2000 Battle List indicated the need to search 281 counties, throughout the 32 state survey area. Between March and June 2000, the NPS study team substantially revised the Battle List, adding actions in 31 new counties. Associated Historic Properties in these 31 new counties were not added to the initial database prior to the public comment period. Sites located beyond the battle and campaign counties were identified through additional research and public comment. During the public comment period, reviewers added to the NPS database significant properties that lay outside the campaign areas or that were missed in the initial search.

Once the study team identified the original 281 counties and cities, it turned to the National Register of Historic Places to acquire the basic information needed for the public comment and evaluation. The National Register is one of the only nationwide inventories of significant cultural resources and is the primary data source for any major cultural resource study.

The study team first queried the National Register database (known as the National Register Information System or NRIS) for all listings in counties where battles or campaigns were known to have occurred. The study team then asked the NRIS to list properties found in those counties by significant dates falling between 1775-1783 and 1812-1815. The NRIS produced a list of more than 2,000 properties based on the query criteria. In some cases, historic districts and other resources with extensive boundaries cross county lines. The National Register references properties by one county only. Some such properties may therefore have fallen outside the search parameters.

Next, the study team consulted the nominations themselves to determine whether the properties selected through the NRIS query were associated with the two wars, a determination that can only be verified by reviewing the narrative Statement of Significance. During this inspection, the study team realized that the query results had omitted numerous properties associated with the two wars. To compensate for the data gaps, study team members pulled each nomination within the battle and campaign counties, regardless of its date of significance, and examined the narrative Statement of Significance to determine if the property was associated with either war.

As the National Register has evolved, the standards for documenting listed properties have improved significantly. Early nominations (1966 through early 1980s), which include many well-known 18th-century and early-19th-century resources, do not always exhibit the level of professional documentation that is presently required by the National Register. In some cases, the narrative Statements of Significance of the early nominations do not contain enough detail to associate the properties with either war. Different degrees of documentation affected the NPS study team's ability to select sites accurately for the Associated Historic Properties List.

Finally, the study team recognized that the impetus for preparing and submitting National Register nominations grows out of State, local, even individual property owner priorities, and

that there has never been a concerted national effort to nominate all significant sites associated with these two wars. As a result, the National Register is an excellent starting point for identifying these properties, but it is not a complete inventory. The Study Team relied upon the public comment period, along with the work of the Study Advisory Committee to identify any additional properties that were missed by the initial National Register search or should be added to the initial Associated Historic Property list, based on consensus opinions.

Organization of the study and survey process

The study began by establishing several historic themes, under which the associated historic properties would fit in order to create a framework for historic context. Once completed with detailed information regarding various property types for each theme, the study team moved on to define its methodology and begin the process of establishing contacts, researching the two wars and setting priorities for the survey itself.

The study team's highest priority was to identify sites associated with the two wars, as noted above. Recognizing that the National Register of Historic Places should not serve as the only source of information, the list of associated historic properties was made available to the public, including State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal governments, and other partners, for comments and additions. The resulting list of all resources identified through the NPS study team, as well as public participation served as the larger dataset, from which sites were chosen for survey as part of the study itself.

After the public comment period, the NPS study team passed the list on to the study Advisory Committee of scholars for review. The committee is compiled of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 historians, architectural historians, National Park Service staff and others. This Advisory Committee sorted the list first by level of historic significance and then by geographic distribution, and provided recommendations for field survey to the NPS.

Following this process, the NPS study team sought to survey as many of the sites as it could within budget and time constraints. In order to accomplish these goals, the NPS is relying on partnerships and agreements forged between the State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal governments, and other groups to carry out the fieldwork required for the survey. Field surveys will begin in the summer of 2000 and last approximately one year. Sites in as many as 32 states and the District of Columbia may be surveyed. Field surveyors will document site condition and use, and present or potential threats to the site. Once field surveys are complete, the NPS study team will evaluate the sites based on condition and threat, complete a statistical analysis of the survey data, and research preservation strategies. The NPS and the Advisory Committee will then make recommendations for site preservation and interpretation and submit a final study report for Departmental approval and subsequent transmittal to the Congress by the Secretary.

Overview of the survey process

Clearly, the field survey of the battlefields and associated historic properties forms the backbone of the entire historic preservation study. All recommendations of the NPS study team will rely on the accurate and well-documented surveys of resources conducted throughout the project